

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(Currently amended) A pneumatic chest compression vest for a patient having a chest, a back and shoulders, the vest comprising:

a generally rigid front panel having an outer surface and an inner surface and a central bib portion and side portions;

a flexible air bladder mounted on an inner surface of the front panel;

a plurality of air ports through which the air bladder is connectable to a source of oscillating pneumatic pressure; and

a belt connected to the front panel to position means for positioning the front panel and the air bladder over a the patient's chest, so that the front panel the air bladder being shaped to approximately covers essentially only cover a lung containing region of a the patient's chest and to not substantially extend onto the patient's back and the patient's shoulders when the front panel and the air bladder are positioned over the patient's chest.

2.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 wherein the air bladder has a central bib portion and side portions that respectively engages the engage a front and sides of the patient's chest when the front panel and the air bladder are positioned over the patient's chest.

3.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 claim 2 wherein the air bladder engages the region of the chest which encompasses the lungs top edges of the central bib portions of the front panel and the air bladder are positioned above top edges of the side portions of the front panel and the air bladder when the front panel and the air bladder are positioned over the patient's chest.

4.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 wherein the front panel has a central bib section portion is located at its central portion midway between the side portions.

5.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 wherein the central bib portion has a height between about 9.0 inches and about 13.0 inches.

6.(Original) The vest of claim 1 wherein the side portions have a height between about 6.0 inches and about 9.0 inches.

7.(Original) The vest of claim 1 wherein the vest is asymmetric from front to back.

8.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 wherein the vest generally rigid front panel does not change its general shape during treatment.

9.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 wherein the vest is shaped to apply a compressive force causes to cause the patient's chest to change shape.

10.(Original) The vest of claim 1 wherein the vest is constructed from material that when incinerated produces no toxic gas and leaves little particulate matter.

11.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 wherein a top edge of the front panel is shaped to be positionable near the patient's collar bone and the bottom edge is shaped to be positionable near a bottom of the patient's rib cage.

12.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 wherein the air bladder produces is shaped to produce compressive forces of a magnitude to induce deep sputum from the patient's lungs or clear the patient's lungs of mucus.

13.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ a width of the air bladder is about 21 inches.

14.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 wherein the means for positioning includes a belt is attached to one side of the front panel.

15.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 14 wherein the vest is secured to a patient by wrapping the belt around the patient's back, sides and over the outer surface of the front panel.

16.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 wherein the means for positioning includes further comprising suspenders to position the front panel and the air bladder over the patient's chest.

17.(Currently amended) The vest of claim 1 further comprising wherein an air coupling connects to connect the air bladder and to the source of pneumatic pressure by inserting the air coupling through one of the air port from ports extending through the front panel.

18.(Original) The vest of claim 1 wherein the air bladder is made of 4 mil polyethylene.

19.(Currently amended) A pneumatic chest compression vest for a patient having a chest, a back and shoulders, the vest comprising;

a generally rigid front panel having an inner surface and an outer surface and a central bib portion with a height of between about 9 inches and about 13 inches and side portions having a height of between about 6 inches and about 9 inches;

a flexible air bladder mounted on the inner surface of the front panel, the air bladder having a central bib portion and side portions that substantially overlap the central bib portion and the side portions of the front panel;

a plurality of air ports extending through the front panel through which the air bladder is connectable to a source of oscillating pneumatic pressure; and

a belt for mounting to position the front panel and the air bladder over a the patient's chest, so that the front panel and the air bladder being shaped to approximately covers essentially only cover a lung containing region of a the patient's chest and to not substantially extend onto the patient's back and the patient's shoulders when the front panel and the air bladder are positioned over the patient's chest.

20.(Currently amended) A pneumatic chest compression system for a patient having a chest, a back, shoulders, a collar bone and a rib cage, the system comprising:

a front panel;

a flexible air bladder mounted on an inner surface of the front panel;

a belt for holding the front panel and the air bladder over a the patient's chest;

a source of oscillating pneumatic pressure; and

air connections between the source and the air bladder, the air bladder being shaped to essentially only cover a lung containing region of the patient's chest from about the patient's collar bone to about a bottom of the patient's rib cage and to not substantially extend onto the patient's back and the patient's shoulders when the front panel and the air bladder are positioned over the patient's chest.

21.(Currently amended) The system of claim 19 claim 20 wherein the front panel includes a central bib portion having a height of between about 9 inches and about 13 inches.

22.(Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the front panel further includes side portions having a height of between about 6 inches and about 9 inches.

23.(Currently amended) A method of providing high frequency chest wall oscillation to a patient having a chest, a back and shoulders, the method comprising: fitting on a patient a vest having a front panel with an air bladder; so that positioning the air bladder is positioned in to essentially only contact with a lung containing region of the patient's chest which encompasses the patient's lungs, the air bladder being shaped to not substantially extend onto the patient's back and the patient's shoulders when the air bladder is positioned over the lung containing region of the patient's chest; and

supplying an oscillating pneumatic pressure to the air bladder so that pressure is applied by the air bladder to the patient's lungs lung containing region.

24.(Currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein fitting the vest includes:

securing the vest in position with a belt which extends around the patient's back, sides and across the front panel; and

securing the vest with suspenders which extend over the patient's shoulders.

25.(Currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein securing the vest with suspenders includes crossing the suspenders ~~are crossed~~ in front of the patient to hold the vest more securely in place.

26.(Currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein further comprising providing the front panel is comprised of with a central bib portion and side portions.

27.(Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the central bib portion extends from the patient's collar bone to a bottom of the patient's rib cage, and the side portions extend under the patient's arms.

28.(Currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein a supply of supplying an oscillating pneumatic pressure is coupled to includes coupling the air bladder via air couplings inserted through the air ports on the front panel.

29.(Currently amended) A method of providing chest wall oscillation to a patient having a chest, a back, shoulders, a collar bone and a rib cage, the method comprising:

positioning a vest on a patient so that an air bladder carried on an inner surface of a front panel of the vest is located adjacent essentially only covers a lung containing region of the patient's chest, the air bladder being shaped to not substantially extend onto the patient's back and the patient's shoulders when the air bladder is positioned over the lung containing region of the patient's chest; and

applying pneumatic pressure through the air bladder over an area on a patient's chest from about the above a bottom of the patient's rib cage to the patient's collarbone.

30.(Currently amended) A method providing chest wall oscillation to a patient having a chest, a back, shoulders, a collar bone and a rib cage, the method comprising:
positioning a vest carrying an air bladder so that the air bladder engages only front and sides of the patient's chest and not the patient's back and shoulders; and
applying pressure through the air bladder to over a region on the patient's chest extending from a bottom of the patient's rib cage to about the patient's collar bone.

31.(Currently amended) A method of providing high frequency chest wall oscillation to a patient having a chest, a back, shoulders, the method comprising:

mounting on the patient a vest having a front panel with an air bladder so that the air bladder is positioned essentially only in contact with a lung containing region of the patient's chest ~~which encompasses the patient's lungs but not in contact with the patient's back and shoulders~~; and

supplying an oscillating pneumatic pressure to the air bladder so that pressure is applied by the air bladder to the lung containing region of the patient's lungs chest.

32.(Original) The method of claim 31 wherein mounting includes:
securing the vest in position with a belt which extends around the patient's back.

33.(Original) The method of claim 31 wherein mounting includes:
securing the vest with suspenders which extend over the patient's shoulders.